

May 2020

Folder 12 -- Ovaída, Robert -- 1934

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Copy of Letter sent by Robert Ovaïd to Sam Goldberg
608 East 4th S treet
New York, New York.

January 12, 1934
C. Jaurex Chih.

Sam Goldberg
New York, New York.

Dear Freind:

I recieved your letter and I was very glad to hear from you all again.

Dear Sam, you sand me many questions and now I sand you all you want. The name of the Rabbi of El Paso is Joseph M. Roth of the congregation Baaï Zion of El Paso, Texas.

The child died in Yom Kipper day at 7 a.m. and we buried the child the next day at 9 a.m. in the Catholic C emetary. The charged 50 peses Mexican money. When I was in the Temple I ask the Rabbi and he said he cant do anything so I went to the Jews Congregation in El Paso and said me that he cant do anythin about it. Then I ask to the Immigration Judge he is Jewish too, but he said that he need \$700 (dollars) fore the burial of the child in the Jewish Cemetary. You know how much is our capital and we havet enough money and for this reason we buried the child in the Catalic Cemetary, and from that day my sister and my mother was sick. My mother told me that she is 52 years old and she never saw a Jew pigle buried in the Catholice Cemetary.

Sam you know that everywhere are congregations, and this congrega- tion is for helping to the cik, for deads, to and for poor man but ghey better help to the streets womans and the womans who lives with goys or Mexicans and not to the poor who need. But we dont nee from him in that time we need only to burjed the child in the Jews Cemetary. We thank God because he gives us all what we nneed but please make me afaver and go the Jews Congregation and him him too, they not to send anything to the Jews Congregation of El Paso, Texas.

Please answer me as soon as you received the letters.
Yur truly freind that never forgot you.

Robert Ovaïda.

January 30, 1934

Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Society of America
425-437 Lafayette Street
New York, New York.

Re: Robert Ovaida

Dear Mr. Shluger:

In reference to your letter of Jan. 23, 1934, I addressed to the El Paso Jewish Relief Society, re; child of Robert Ovaida being buried in a non-Jewish Cemetery in Jaurez, Mexico. I wish to state the following:

The child died of (Asiatic) black smallpox a highly contagious disease the unfortunate victims of such must be almost immediately interred.

If it would at all have been possible to bring the body over the following requirements would have had to be fulfilled.

- 1: Embalming which would have cost \$50.
- 2: A hermetically sealed casket- lead lined. This would have had to be imported, requiring a far longer delay, than the authorities would have permitted the body to have remained unburied. Incidentally same would have cost about \$250.

As far as our experience goes even under ordinary circumstances bringing a body over involves the payment of considerable sum to the Mexican Officials anywhere from \$35 upwards. In this case you may well imagine what exorbitant they would have made.

Under present circumstance I understand after the body will have been buried for a year it will as far as the United Health Services are concerned be permitted to be exhumed and brought over here for interment.

Our community has always dealt most humanely with the Jewish Immigrants in providing them with much of their Spiritual and Material needs, and assisting them in every way possible to expedite their entry into the States. This ~~class~~ can be substantiated by numberless cases.

We resent the slur cast on us by Robert Ovaida and would appreciate you so advising him.

Faithfully yours,

Rabbi Joseph M. Roth

Carbon Copy sent to Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Society
425-437 Lafayette
New York, New York.

and

Mr. Sam Goldberg 608 East 9th Street
New York, New York

February 26, 1934

Mr. Sam Goldberg
608 East 10th Street
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Goldberg:

Your letter under date of February 7th, 1934, to Rabbi Joseph Roth, was referred to me, because of the accusations perpetrated against me by Mr. Robert Ovidia. Needless to say that the comments are false, preposterous, and unethical; it is just another case of "Biting the Hand that Feeds".

I regret the whole incident which brought about all this unnecessary correspondence, and I am sure that you are fully convinced that these many falsifications were brought about through a mental storm due to the death of the Ovidia child, and the impossibility of interring the said child in the El Paso Jewish Cemetery due to the nature of the disease from which the child died.

Yours Very truly,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky
Field Executive
1016 Olive
El Paso, Texas.

I.W./Z.

Dear Rabbi Roth:

After hearing from the Ovaida Family the situation they were in, the one thing I could have done was to appeal to the Jewish Society here in N.Y. not knowing who to notify in El Paso. Had I know you or your congregation I would have most assuredly written either. Let me enlighten you as to the nature of the complaint.

This Ovaida Family are very orthodox Jews so after they appealed and were denied help from an organization of their own race they naturally became disillusioned as to the purpose of your organization. Incidentally they also informed me that there is a certain woman who has charge of the distribution of clothing and such to the poor Israelites of Jaurez, who sells and gives to favorites clothing that she is supposed to distribute as charity.

Of course I am merely speaking from hearsay, and have no way of proving these accusations. However it would certainly relieve the Ovaidas and myself to know that you will investigate these rumors.

Concerning the dead baby I believe that your copy you sent me explains the true circumstances surrounding the affair. It seems that the Ovaidas were not treated with any great deal of kindness in the matter. Perhaps they do not fully understand the reason their baby could not be buried in a Hebrew cemetery. At any rate on the behalf of the Ovaidas and my family with your organization be so kind as to notify the Ovaida, in person preferably, I believe the whole matter can be straightened out as it should have been this way.

Thank you, Rabbi Roth, very kindly, for any consideration in the case, we all really appreciate the efforts of your organization.

Sincerely yours,
Sam Goldberg
608 East 9th Street
New York, New York.